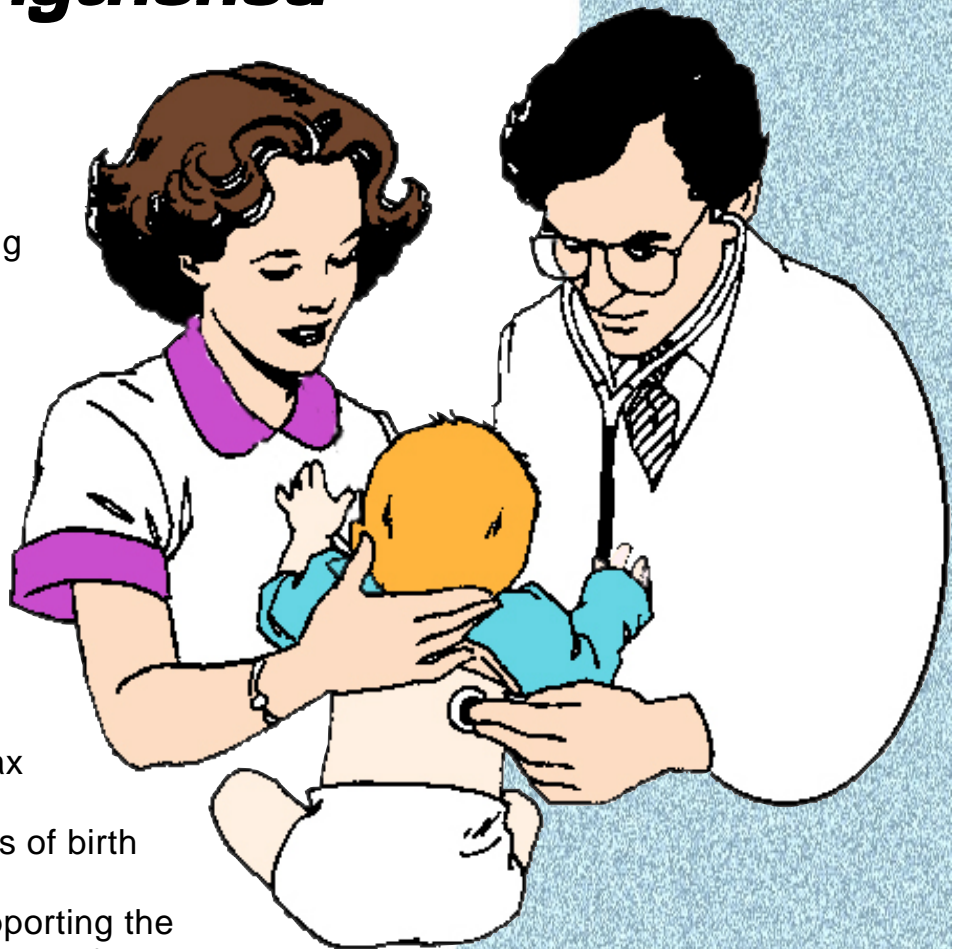


Vaccine Ban for Pregnant Servicewomen Strengthened

The Pentagon has issued policy guidance that reiterates and strengthens long-standing DoD policy to avoid immunization of servicewomen of childbearing age during pregnancy.

Preliminary data, which has not been scientifically peer-reviewed and will require further validation, identified a possible relationship between maternal anthrax vaccination in the first trimester and higher odds of birth defects.

Because the data supporting the study showed that a number of women might have received the anthrax vaccine beyond the first trimester, study data is now being re-validated. The process usually takes several months, after which the final report will be available.



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Additional details of the study are available at www.cdc.gov/mmwr

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